

Docket No. 520.43142X00
Serial No. 10/664,901
Office Action dated September 12, 2007

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 11, 13, 15, 19-22 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 11-16 and 19-22 remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action of September 12, 2007, claims 11-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0135608 to Hamada et al. ("Hamada") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0184780 to Seo et al. ("Seo"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,574,419 issued to Nonomura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that the combination of references discloses all the features recited in the claimed invention. With regard to independent claim 11, for example, the Office Action alleges that Hamada discloses an apparatus for recording information on a tangible medium. The information is alleged to include stream files having still pictures, play list files, which order the still pictures and background music to be played, and play list marks that correspond to the still pictures. The Office Action further indicates that Hamada discloses play list files having one or more play items and one or more sub play items such that each play item corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of the play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating an end time for the still picture, and presentation time for the still picture. Each of the play items allegedly corresponds to a BGM, while each of the sub play item includes start information

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indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM. Each play list mark is indicated as being associated with only one corresponding still picture.

The Office Action admits that Hamada fails to disclose the BGM of the SubPlayItem and still pictures of the PlayItem being independently reproduced. Seo is relied upon for disclosing a playlist area that stores at least one sub-play item where the playitem provides navigation information indicating at least one still picture from a first file to reproduce still pictures, and the sub-playitem provides navigation information for reproducing audio data from a second file. Seo is further relied upon as disclosing a feature of the audio data being reproduced either in a synchronized or unsynchronized fashion with the still image.

The Office Action further admits that the combination of Hamada and Seo still fails to disclose the feature of the still pictures of the PlayItems and the BGM of the SubPlayItems being controlled without interrupting each other. Nonomura is relied upon for disclosing control information which defines a reproduction order of pieces of audio data and a display order of a plurality of still picture data. Nonomura is further relied upon for disclosing reproduction of the plurality of audio and still pictures separately by using reproduction control information. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As amended, independent claim 11 defines an apparatus for recording information on a tangible recording medium, the information comprises:

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stream files including still pictures;

PlayList files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and

PlayListMarks that correspond to said still pictures;

wherein:

each of said PlayList files has one or more PlayItems and one or more SubPlayItems,

each of said PlayItems corresponds to one or more still pictures,

each of said PlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,

each of said SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM, each of said SubPlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM,

each of said PlayListMarks is associated with only one corresponding still picture, and

wherein each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each of said PlayItems,

the still pictures of the PlayItems and BGM of said SubPlayItems are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

According to independent claim 11, the information stored on the recording medium includes stream files having still pictures, PlayList files that order the still pictures and background music to be played, and PlayList marks that correspond to the still pictures. Each still picture has one or more PlayItems and one or more SubPlayItems. Each PlayItem corresponds to one or more still pictures and includes: start information indicating a presentation start time, end information indicating a presentation end time, as well as a presentation time for

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the still picture. Each of the SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM and includes: start information, end information, and presentation time for the BGM. Each PlayList mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture. Further, according to independent claim 11, each PlayList mark is provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem. The still pictures of the PlayItems and the BGM of the SubPlayItems are capable of being independently reproduced such that the still pictures can be freely navigated forward or backward without interrupting the reproduction of the BGM.

The Office Action alleges that Seo discloses the ability to independently reproduce sound and still pictures. Review of Seo, however, has failed to reveal any disclosure or suggestion for this precise feature. Seo only indicates that the audio data can be reproduced in either a synchronized or unsynchronized fashion with respect to the associated still pictures. Seo is entirely silent on the exact meaning of this feature. Further, Seo merely discusses reproduction of audio data in synchronized or unsynchronized format. There is no disclosure or suggestion for independently reproducing and controlling the still pictures and the BGM. Seo is also silent on including the PlayList mark at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem.

The Office Action further alleges that Nonomura discloses control information which defines a reproduction order of a plurality of pieces of audio data and a display order of a plurality of still picture data. The Office Action alleges that this teaching would allow reproduction of the audio and still picture data separately by using the reproduction control information. Applicants

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respectfully disagree. The information disclosed by Nonomura is not concerned with the relationship between the audio and still picture data, in accordance with the instant invention. Furthermore, the control information disclosed by Nonomura is completely silent on the use of PlayListMarks being provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem. The combination of references simply fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion for features recited in independent claim 11, such as:

wherein each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each of said PlayItems,

the still pictures of the PlayItems and BGM of said SubPlayItems are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 11 is allowable over the art of record.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 11, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 11. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 13 defines an apparatus for recording information on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises:

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stream files including still pictures;
PlayList files which order still pictures and background music
(BGM) to be played; and
PlayListMarks that correspond to the still pictures;
wherein:
each of said PlayList files has one or more PlayItems
and one or more SubPlayItems,
each of said PlayItems corresponds to one or more
still pictures, each of said PlayItems includes start information
indicating a presentation start time for a still picture, end information
indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and a
presentation time of the still picture,
each of said SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM,
each of said SubPlayItems includes start information indicating a
presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a
presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the
BGM,
each of said PlayListMarks is associated with one
corresponding PlayItem and one still picture included in the
corresponding PlayItem, and
wherein each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a
beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each
of said PlayItems,
the still pictures of the said PlayItems and BGM of the
SubPlayItems are independently reproduced and said still pictures
are freely changed (skip next or skip back) not interrupting the
reproduction of said BGM.

Independent claim 13 recites features that are somewhat similar to those recited in independent claim 11. For example, according to at least one feature of independent claim 13, a PlayListMark is provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem. Further, the still pictures can be freely changed without interrupting reproduction of the BGM. As previously discussed, the cited references fail to provide any disclosure or suggestion for

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these particular features, as well as the combination of features recited in independent claim 13.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 13 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 14 depends from independent claim 13, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 13. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 15 defines an information reproducing method for reproducing still picture information from a recording medium. The recording medium contains PlayListMarks that correspond to the still pictures, and each PlayListMark is associated with a single corresponding still picture and only one corresponding PlayList. Furthermore, a PlayListMark is provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem. The method comprises the steps:

detecting said start information and said end information;
controlling said presentation time of said still pictures in accordance with said detected start information and end information; and

independently reproducing still pictures of the PlayItems and BGM of the said SubPlayItems on one or more output devices, in which said still pictures are freely changed (skip next or skip back) not interrupting the reproduction of said BGM.

As previously discussed, the cited references fail to provide any disclosure or suggestion for claimed features such as providing PlayListMarks at the

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beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem, or independently reproducing and controlling the still pictures of the PlayItems without interrupting reproduction of the BGM.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 15 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 16 depends from independent claim 15, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 15. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 19 defines an apparatus for reproducing information recorded on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises:

stream files including still pictures;
PlayList files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and
PlayListMarks that correspond to said still pictures;

wherein:

each of said PlayList files has one or more PlayItems and one or more SubPlayItems,

each of said PlayItems corresponds to one still picture, each of said PlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for the still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,

each of said SubPlayItems corresponds to a BGM, each of said SubPlayItems includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM.

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each of said PlayListMarks is associated with only one corresponding still picture, and

wherein each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each of said PlayItems,

the still pictures of said PlayItems and BGM of said SubPlayItems are independently reproduced and said still pictures are freely changed (skip next or skip back) not interrupting the reproduction of said BGM.

Independent claim 19 recites, in part, the features of PlayListMarks being provided at the beginning of each PlayList file and at the beginning of each PlayItem, and independently reproducing and controlling the still pictures of the play items without interrupting reproduction of the BGM. As previously discussed, this particular feature is not shown or suggested by the art of record.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 19 is allowable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 20 defines an apparatus for reproducing information recorded on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises, in part:

wherein each of said PlayListMarks is provided at a beginning of each of said PlayList files and at a beginning of each of said PlayItems,

the still pictures of said PlayItems are independently reproduced while said BGM of said SubPlayItem is reproduced on the one or more output devices when the flag for type of presentation indicates playing with said SubPlayItem and said still pictures are freely changed (skip next or skip back) not interrupting the reproduction of said BGM.

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As previously discussed, such features are not shown or suggested by the art of record.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from independent claim 20, and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20. In addition, these claims each introduce novel elements that independently render them patentable over the art of record.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

JAN 14 2008

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AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43142X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 14, 2008